



Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs



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VCOS Board of Directors Annual Meeting

**August 8, 2019
Atlanta, Georgia**

MINUTES

Thursday, August 8 (at the Georgia World Congress Convention Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30313)

Present: Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Donna Black, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chair Charles Flynn, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Al Yancey, President Dan Eggleston

Staff: Ms. Jennifer Bragiel

The meeting started at 2:04 pm.

Introduction and Welcome – Chair Flynn

Chair Flynn called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending the VCOS Annual Meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer was conducted. He reviewed the agenda and had the VCOS Board provide short introductions.

Election Committee Report – Chief Rush

Chief Florentino was unable to attend the meeting, so Chief Rush reviewed the results of the 2019 VCOS election.

Motion by Chief Collins and seconded by Chief Oettel to accept the election results as presented. Motion carried.

Swearing-in of VCOS Positions

IAFC President Dan Eggleston swore in as VCOS Board of Directors At-Large Members for a 3-year term Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Rich Cowger and Chief Fred Windisch.

Training Officer Award

Division Chief Lee Whitner of South Adams County (Colorado) Fire Department was introduced by Chief Collins and presented the Training Officer Award by Mr. Robbi King of TargetSolutions. Chief Whitner

offered her gratitude and appreciation to her department and her family and friends for their support. She was humbled and honored to receive the award.

VCOS FRI Scholarships – Chief Black and Chief Yancey

Fire Chief Billy Gibson, Crosswell (South Carolina) Fire District was introduced and presented a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Fire-Rescue International (FRI).

Fire Chief Darin Needham, Lewisville (North Carolina) Fire Department was introduced and presented a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Fire-Rescue International (FRI).

International Director's Report – Chief Black

An update on the Women Fire Chiefs Council was provided.

Chief Black concluded with an update on the International Association of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors activities.

Cancer Initiatives – Chief Cowger

Chief Cowger presented on cancer prevention efforts by the VCOS and the joint efforts of the VCOS and the NVFC. He recognized the importance of the partnership to create the Lavender Ribbon Report and the efforts of both organizations to expand upon the project through creating an education course, webinars and posters together.

New & Interim Chief Guidance – Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey described the creation process and the importance and value of the You're the Fire Chief; Now What? – Guidance for New and Interim Fire Chiefs created in partnership with the Executive Fire Officers Section.

Yellow Ribbon Report – Chief Rush

Chief Rush provided an update on the Yellow Ribbon Report and spoke about the course that is available based on the report.

Accomplishments 2018-2019 – Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn reviewed VCOS accomplishments since the 2018 annual meeting including the FLSA Toolkit, new reports and new education offerings. He encouraged those present to get involved with the VCOS.

Communications Committee – Chief Cook

Chief Cook asked provided an overview of the newsletter and asked for people to contribute articles for it. He provided an overview of social media.

Treasurer/Secretary's Report – Chief Windisch

Chief Windisch reviewed the finances of the VCOS. Chief Windisch explained that the VCOS needs money to exist, but it should not be afraid to spend its money. 2018 was a planned spending of the

money. Chief Windisch emphasized the importance of being fiscally responsible. He explained the Pierce Fund and how much Pierce has supported the education initiatives of the VCOS.

Chief Windisch emphasized that the VCOS will continue developing resources and providing education. The VCOS wants to ensure value and is committed to remaining engaged and continuing partnerships. A \$10 dues increase is under review and consideration to help the section remain the most productive.

It was pointed out that staff time and costs must be addressed. The high amount of staff time is due to the productivity of the section. The VCOS is looking at eliminating or reducing some efforts and engaging an education coordinator to reduce the workload for staff and the board.

VCOS Educational Opportunities

Chief Windisch spoke on Symposium in the Sun and explained that they will be mixing things up this year. This year will again have amazing speakers and encouraged those present to attend. He explained that registration was increased by \$25. The VCOS is working on reducing operation costs and keeping quality. A reception only badge will also be added.

The current status of courses were reviewed along with an explanation about each course and their takeaways.

Symposium in the West in now Symposium in the Spring. The conference lost money due to lack of attendance, but the VCOS is hopeful the new location along with other changes will help increase attendance.

VCOS Education Update – Chief Flynn

The Beyond Hoses and Helmets update was discussed.

FirstNet Presentation

FirstNet provided a short presentation on the system.

VCOS Business – Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn explained the VCOS is celebrating their 25th Anniversary and discussed the 25th Anniversary Challenge Coins available for members.

Chief Flynn discussed the 25th Anniversary USBs available and all of the resources they contain.

Good of the Order

Chief Flynn introduced Chief Wall and spoke on this being his last official meeting. He thanked him for his efforts and explained that Chief Wall is not going to go away. Chief Wall thanked the membership, the board and all those that have been there for him. He recognized the Connecticut Scholarship winners in the room.

Chief Flynn recognized Chief Black who is running for the IAFC 2nd Vice President Position to speak to the membership.

Motion by Chief Crutchter and seconded by Chief Farrar for the IAFC Membership to endorse Chief Donna Black for IAFC 2nd Vice President 2020. Motion Passed.

**Motion by Chief Collins and seconded by Chief Oettel to adjourn the meeting.
Motion Passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.